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6-2006

2005 (17th) Report of the NOU Records Committee

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Brogie, Mark A., "2005 (17th) Report of the NOU Records Committee" (2006). *Nebraska Bird Review*. 285.
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2005 (17th) REPORT OF THE NOU RECORDS COMMITTEE

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The functions and methods of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union (NOU) Records Committee are described in its bylaws (NOU Records Committee 1986). The committee's purpose is to provide a procedure for documenting unusual bird sightings and to establish a list of all documented birds for Nebraska. "The Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" was first published in 1988 (NOU Records Committee 1988) and has been updated two times (NOU Records Committee 1997, 2004).

The "Official List" has been appended fifteen times: (Mollhoff 1989; Grenon 1990, 1991; Gubanyi 1996a, 1996b, 1996c; Brogie 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2005; Jorgensen 2001, 2002, 2003). This report includes all accounts submitted during the calendar year of 2005 covering 21 records with accession numbers 1110-1130.

All records mentioned here will be available to interested persons at the NOU archives at the University of Nebraska State Museum (UNSM), Lincoln, NE. Interested parties should contact the current NOU Librarian, whose address can be found in the latest issue of *The Nebraska Bird Review* (NBR).

State List

The American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds, Seventh Edition (1998) and the Forty-first, Forty-second, Forty-third, Forty-fourth, Forty-fifth, and Forty-sixth Supplements to the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU, 1997, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005) contain many taxonomic changes affecting North American birds. The following summarizes all 2005 revisions by the AOU in regards to changes in scientific names and changes in assignments to Family and Order of species to the most recent published "The Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" (NBR 72: 108-126).

Additionally, the list reflects changes in frequency of occurrence as determined by the NOU Records Committee, which reviewed records of bird occurrences in Nebraska for 1996-2005. Frequency of occurrence is indicated by the following terms (NOU Records Committee 1988):

Regular - acceptably reported in 9-10 of the past 10 years
Casual - acceptably reported in 4-7 of the past 10 years
Accidental - acceptably reported in 0-2 of the past 10 years
Extirpated - not acceptably reported in the past 50 years
Extinct - no longer found alive anywhere in the world.

The frequency of occurrence for any species that is acceptably reported in 3 or 8 of the last 10 years is discussed by the committee and placed in a category felt most appropriate by the committee.

With this report, the following changes are made to "The Official List of the Birds of Nebraska: 2003".

Changes in Firmness of Data

1. Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) III to 1-P
2. Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*) III to 1-P
Additional photos submitted (MU) of the 2001 Dawson County bird were voted on and accepted by the 2005 NOURC.

Changes in Frequency of Occurrence

1. Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) Regular to Casual
2. Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) Casual to Regular
3. Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) Casual to Regular
4. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) Casual to Regular
5. Cassin's Vireo (*Vireo cassinii*) Casual to Regular
6. Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) Casual to Regular
7. Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) Casual to Regular

2005 Additions to State List

No new additions in 2005; "The Official List of the Birds of Nebraska" stands at 448 species.

Criteria for Accepted Records

For a record to be accepted, a minimum of six votes in favor are required with no more than one dissenting vote (NOU Records Committee 1986). Records in the following classes listed as accepted:

- I-S - a diagnostic, labeled specimen exists
- I-P - a diagnostic, labeled photograph or slide exists
- I-R - a diagnostic, labeled recording exists
- II - three or more independently written diagnostic documentations of the same bird exist
- III - one or two independently written diagnostic documentations of the same bird exist

Each account of an accepted record includes a brief statement noting the species, class, date, location, and initial(s) of observers.

Pre-2005 Records Accepted**Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)**

1. A basic adult was observed (Class III; SD) on Lake McConaughy, Keith Co., 19, 21 December 2003. (3rd documented Nebraska record)

Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*)

1. A female was observed (Class III; JG) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 19 December 2004.

2005 Accepted Records**Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)**

1. One of two birds was photographed (Class 1-P; PD) at Harvard WPA, Clay Co., either 15 or 23 April 2005.

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)

1. A single flying bird was observed (Class III; BP,LP) at Indian Cave State Park, Richardson Co., 30 April 2005.

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*)

1. An adult bird was observed (Class III; LE) at Branched Oak Lake, Lancaster Co., 17 April 2005. (4th documented Nebraska record)

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

1. A non-breeding "probably a male" plumaged bird was observed (Class III; JJ) at Ekchardt WPA, Clay Co., 26 March 2005.

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*)

1. An adult in alternate plumage was observed (Class III; MAB) below Gavin's Point Dam, Cedar Co., 26 July 2005.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)

1. A first-winter bird was observed (Class III; MAB) below Gavin's Point Dam, Cedar Co., 06 December 2005.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

1. A photograph (Class 1-P; CN) of a bird in Albion, Boone Co., 20 June 2005. This bird was found under a large Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*) after a strong storm, but later recovered and flew away. Age of bird strongly suggests Nebraska's first nesting record for this species.
2. An adult was photographed (Class 1-P; MAB) in Creighton, Knox Co., 10 August 2005.
3. An adult bird was observed (Class III; RH, LR) at Gering, Scotts Bluff Co., 17 December 2005.
The NOURC no longer seeks documentation for this species.

Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*)

1. A male was photographed (Class 1-P, KD) at Mitchell, Scotts Bluff Co., 21 July 2005.

Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*)

1. An adult male was photographed (Class 1-P, MB) in Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., 30 May 2005.
The NOURC no longer seeks documentation for this species.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)

1. An adult was photographed (Class 1-P; EB) south of Creighton, Antelope Co., 13 September 2005.
The NOURC no longer seeks documentation for this species.

Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

1. A male was photographed (Class 1-P, KD) at Wind Springs Ranch, Sioux Co., 10 September 2005.
2. A male was photographed (Class 1-P, KD) at Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff Co., 17 December 2005.

White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*)

1. A single female/juvenile was photographed (Class 1-P; CK) in Creighton, Knox Co., 05 July, 2005.
The NOURC no longer seeks documentation for this species.

2005 Records Filed Without Votes**Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)**

1. A photograph (MAB) of one of at least four owlets found in a barn near Creighton, Knox Co., 08 October, 2005.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*)

1. A photograph (LW via TJW) of two owlets just out of the nest near Parks, Dundy Co., 09 May 2005.
2. A photograph (MAB) of one of two owlets just out of the nest near Bloomfield, Knox Co., 23 May 2005.

Unaccepted Records

Records in the following classes are considered unaccepted (NOU Records Committee 1986):

- IV - probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubt
- V - a record with insufficient evidence to support the identification claimed
- VI - a probable released or escaped bird or mistaken identification

Each account of an unaccepted record includes a brief statement noting the species, class, date, location, and reasons for the committee's failure to accept the record.

2005 Unaccepted Records**Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*)**

1. A written report of a single adult at Wagon Train Lake, Lancaster Co., 10 September, 2005. Although very suggestive, the description in this documentation lacked sufficient details for this species to be placed on the Official State List.

2004 Records Withdrawn**Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*)**

1. A 2003 record submitted to the NOURC in 2004; Accession # 1087 has been withdrawn by the reporter.

Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*)

1. A 2003 record submitted to the NOURC in 2004; Accession # 1088 has been withdrawn by the reporter.

Acknowledgments

The NOU Records Committee would like to thank the following observers who contributed records included in this report: Michael Bazant (MB), Ellen Brogie (EB), Mark A. Brogie (MAB), Kathy DeLara (KD), Stephen J. Dinsmore (SD), Russell Duerksen (RD), Paul Dunbar (PD), Larry Einemann (LE), Ruth Green (RG), Joe Gubanyi (JG), Robin Harding (RH), Joel Jorgensen (JJ), Curtis Keck (CK), Colleen Noecker (CN), Babs Padelford (BP), Loren Padelford (LP), Lanny Randolph (LR), Mark Urwiller (MU), T. J. Walker (TJW), Larry Williams (LW).

2005 NOU Records Committee members: Mark A. Brogie (chair), Joe Gubanyi, Joel Jorgensen, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, W. Ross Silcock, and Jerry Toll.

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